Gift of eternal life

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**Synopsis**

Eternal life cannot be earned or merited but must be received as a gift from God.

**Fruitless attempts to earn eternal life**

[Jn 5:39–40](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn5.39-40) It is possible to study the mere letter of Scripture while ignoring coming to its focus, Jesus Christ;

[Ga 3:11–12](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ga3.11-12)

**John 5:39–40 (ESV) — 39** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, **40** yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

**Galatians 3:11–12 (ESV) — 11** Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” **12** But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”

See also [Ro 3:20](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ro3.20); [Ro 3:28](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ro3.28)

**Romans 3:20 (ESV) — 20** For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

**Romans 3:28 (ESV) — 28** For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

**Jesus Christ is the source of eternal life**

[1 Jn 5:11–12](https://biblia.com/books/esv/1Jn5.11-12)

**1 John 5:11–12 (ESV) — 11** And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

See also [Jn 11:25–26](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn11.25-26); [Jn 14:6](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn14.6); [Ro 5:21](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ro5.21); [Heb 5:9](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Heb5.9); [Heb 9:12](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Heb9.12); [2 Ti 1:1](https://biblia.com/books/esv/2Ti1.1); [2 Ti 1:10](https://biblia.com/books/esv/2Ti1.10); [1 Jn 5:20](https://biblia.com/books/esv/1Jn5.20)

**John 11:25–26 (ESV) — 25** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

**John 14:6 (ESV) — 6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Romans 5:21 (ESV) — 21** so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Hebrews 5:9 (ESV) — 9** And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

**Hebrews 9:12 (ESV) — 12** he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

**2 Timothy 1:1 (ESV) — 1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

**2 Timothy 1:10 (ESV) — 10** and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

**1 John 5:20 (ESV) — 20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

**Eternal life is a gift**

[Ro 6:23](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ro6.23)

**Romans 6:23 (ESV) — 23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

See also [Jn 6:27](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn6.27); [Jn 10:28](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn10.28); [Ro 2:7](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ro2.7); [Ro 5:15–17](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ro5.15-17); [Eph 2:8–9](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Eph2.8-9); [1 Pe 3:7](https://biblia.com/books/esv/1Pe3.7); [2 Pe 1:3](https://biblia.com/books/esv/2Pe1.3)

**John 6:27 (ESV) — 27** Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”

**John 10:28 (ESV) — 28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

**Romans 2:7 (ESV) — 7** to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

**Romans 5:15–17 (ESV) — 15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. **16** And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. **17** For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV) — 8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**1 Peter 3:7 (ESV) — 7** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

**2 Peter 1:3 (ESV) — 3** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

**Received by faith**

[Jn 3:36](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn3.36) Faith in Jesus Christ, God’s son, is the only way to gain eternal life.

**John 3:36 (ESV) — 36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

See also [Jn 3:16](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn3.16); [Jn 5:24](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn5.24); [Jn 6:40](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn6.40); [Jn 20:31](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn20.31); [1 Ti 1:16](https://biblia.com/books/esv/1Ti1.16)

**John 3:16 (ESV) — 16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**John 5:24 (ESV) — 24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

**John 6:40 (ESV) — 40** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

**John 20:31 (ESV) — 31** but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**1 Timothy 1:16 (ESV) — 16** But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

**The need for personal commitment**

[Jn 12:25–26](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn12.25-26)

**John 12:25–26 (ESV) — 25** Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

See also [Mt 7:14](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Mt7.14); [Mk 8:37–38](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Mk8.37-38); [Ac 11:18](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ac11.18) Repentance is the first step of commitment; [Ro 6:8–11](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ro6.8-11)

**Matthew 7:14 (ESV) — 14** For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

**Mark 8:37–38 (ESV) — 37** For what can a man give in return for his soul? **38** For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**Acts 11:18 (ESV) — 18** When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

**Romans 6:8–11 (ESV) — 8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.